

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Barnstable Hill (Jean Claude Lowery Farm) Inventory Number: QA-524
Address: MD 18 (south side, east of Dominion Road) Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Chester vic. Zip Code: County: Queen Annes
USGS Quadrangle(s):
Property Owner: Tax Account ID Number:
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Tax Map Number:
Project: Agency:
Agency Prepared By: E. Elinsky /DOT/FHWA
Preparer's Name: Date Prepared: 12/3/1979
Documentation is presented in: federal/section 106 DOE files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property:
Inventory Number: Eligible: yes Listed: yes
to visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: Date:

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Barnstable Hill is architecturally significant as a representative example of rural, vernacular domestic architecture of the turn of the 20th c, displaying more than the usual amount of integrity of architectural detailing in its design. The farm property is associated with the agricultural history of the area as an example of land continuously used for 200 years as farmland by the same family.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Carol D. Schull (Keeper of NR)

Monday, February 11, 1980

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

Printed from MHT GIS/Library Database

E.O. 11593

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

QA-524

Name of property: Barnstable Hill

Location: Chester, Queen Anne County

State: MD

Request submitted by: DOT/FHWA/Emil Elinsky

Date received: 12/3/79

Additional information received:

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

☒ **Eligible**

☐ **Not Eligible**

☐ **No Response**

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

☒ **Eligible**

Applicable criteria: A, C

☐ **Not Eligible**

Comments: Barnstable Hill is architecturally significant as a representative example of rural, vernacular domestic architecture of the turn of the 20th century, displaying more than the usual amount and integrity of architectural detailing in its design. The farm property is associated with the agricultural history of the area as an example of land continuously used for 200 years as farm-land by the same family.

☐ **Documentation insufficient**

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)


Keeper of the National Register

Date: 2-11-80

NAME: Barnstable Hill (John Claude Lowery Farm)

ADDRESS: Route 18, Chester, Maryland

DESCRIPTION: The Lowery farm is located on the south side of Route 18 (which is south of U.S. 50) just east of Dominion Road on Kent Island, in the vicinity of Chester. The house sits about 150 feet south of the road within a group of well-established trees.

The white frame farmhouse, built in 1901, exhibits an architectural form which is ubiquitous in Queen Anne's County. A two-and-one-half story, five-bay wide, severely symmetrical main section has the ridge of its gable roof running parallel to the north entrance facade along with a full width screened porch. A cross gable with a single, round headed window breaks over the centralized entrance of the middle bay. The half hip porch roof is carried on five squared posts with elaborate curvilinear brackets and has a small cross gable in the middle which echoes the larger cross gable on the roof above. Two gable roofed dormers are located on either side of the main gable, and complete the quartet of gable forms of varying sizes.

The doorway discussed above has abbreviated, narrow three-light sidelights, and transom. The two end brick chimneys have corbelled chimney caps. The gable ends of the roof, projecting beyond the end walls, have paired round headed windows and boxed cornice returns. In the rear of the main section are two additions, the largest on the east being a substantial ell which duplicates the main wing to a remarkable degree, excepting that it is three bays wide, rather than five, and has no dormers. The outbuildings of the farm complex, lying to the east of the house, include a well-preserved barn which is contemporaneous with the house.

The house sits just south of the site of another farmhouse, which was razed by the parents of the current owners when construction began on the present residence. A few elements, like window sills, from the older house were allegedly incorporated into the interior. As indicated on the 1860 Strongs map of Queen Anne's County, as well as the 1824 and 1841 tax assessments, the owners were the Tolsons, William or Thomas. On the 1877 atlas of the Eastern Shore and 1895 tax assessment, Dr. J.E.H. Lewes was listed as owner. William Tolson's 91-acre portion of Barnstable Hill was assessed at \$273 in 1824, and Thomas Tolson was required to pay \$10.00 in tax on the same in 1841, although evidently it had been reduced by 20 acres by that time.

DESCRIPTION: Preceding the ownership of these two parties, it appears that the property was owned by one of their ancestors in 1798. Although the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment for Island Hundred lists different owners for four distinct portions of Barnstable Hill-- Francis Bright (who owned Stoopley Gibson, just north), Robert Gardner, Benjamin Tanner, and John Tolson--it seems probable that the latter was the owner for the section under discussion. John Tolson is indicated as owning a house and outhouse, valued at about \$125 on list D, 1 barn, 24 X 12', 1 corn crib, 12 X 18' 1 storehouse, 16X14', on the particular list, valued at \$180, located on 36 acres of land valued at \$175. He is also shown on list E as the resident of a house valued at \$1500 on a 52-acre parcel of Barnstable Hill owned by Benjamin Tanner.

According to the Rent Rolls of Queen Anne County, Barnstable Hill was surveyed for John Dobbs in 1682.

SIGNIFICANCE: The architectural style of the main house is typical for both rural and town residences of Queen Anne's County. The main wing and ell are almost exact duplicates. A fine barn is roughly contemporaneous with ^{the} 78-year old house. The property, probably used for agriculture for at least the past 200 years, has been, in this century, continuously owned and farmed by the family for which the house was built in 1901--the Lowery's.

ACREAGE: 75 acres

BOUNDARIES: On north, coterminous with fenceline running east/west 10 feet south of Route 18; east and west, coterminous with main tax parcel; on south, boundary extends east from Prince's house to intersect the point where the eastern boundary turns from a southwesterly to due south direction.

QA-524

KENT ISLAND QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1:50,000 FEET



